## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:	)	
Toru SHIMODA, et al.	)	Group Art No. TBA
Serial No.: TBA	)	Examiner: TBA
Filed: September 23, 2003	)	Docket No: 000407.00042

For: VENDING MACHINE

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97, Applicants submit herewith Form PTO-1449, identifying information for consideration by the Examiner. A copy of the item of information is enclosed.

Applicants do not waive any rights to take appropriate action to establish patentability over the listed document should it be applied as a reference against the claims of the present application.

Consideration of the cited information and making the same of record in the prosecution of the above-noted application are respectfully requested. Should the Patent and Trademark Office determine that a fee is required, please charge our Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian E. Hanlon

Registration No. 40,449

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD. 1001 G Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001-4597 (202) 824-3000

Dated: September 23, 2003

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				Complete if Known			
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT		Application Number	TBA				
		Filing Date	September 17, 2003				
		First Named Inventor	Toru Shimoda				
		Group Art Unit	TBA				
	(use as many she	ets as	necessary)	Examiner Name	TBA		
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	000407.00042		

			U.S. PATENT	OCUMENTS	
Examiner Cite No.1	Document Number	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of		
	No.1	Number - Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY	Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Releval Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US-			
		US-			
		บร-			
	Γ	US-			
		US-			
	1	US-			
		US-			<del></del>

	FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document		Name of Patentee or	Pages, Columns, Lines,	
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> - Number <sup>4</sup> - Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Applicant of Cited Document	Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T⁰
		2000-132736	05/12/2000			ABS
<del></del>						
	<b> </b>					
	l					

Examiner Signature	Date Considered	

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional) . <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at <a href="www.uspto.gov">www.uspto.gov</a> or MPEP 901.04.
<sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.